SVRGIS

Instructions for creating a GIS severe weather report database using ArcGIS

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Overview

- **Below are instructions for creating and developing a geographic information systems (GIS) severe weather report database using ArcGIS's ArcMap software. Included in this manual are specific instructions for importing the SVRGIS data into the ArcMap program, as well as different methods to query, sort, or select the data based on user needs. These step-by-step instructions are intended for someone with <u>little</u> or <u>no</u> <u>experience</u> with ArcGIS.**

- **The 2010 updated version of SVRGIS is available for download and includes data from 1950-2009.**
  - *Note: Some of the file names and color displays are slightly different in the 2010 updated version of the .mxd file compared to the 2007 version.*
    - **Every March/April, yearly updates to the database will be available to download. This is done after the data has been disseminated through NWS Headquarters and given a 3 month quality control period from the prior year.**
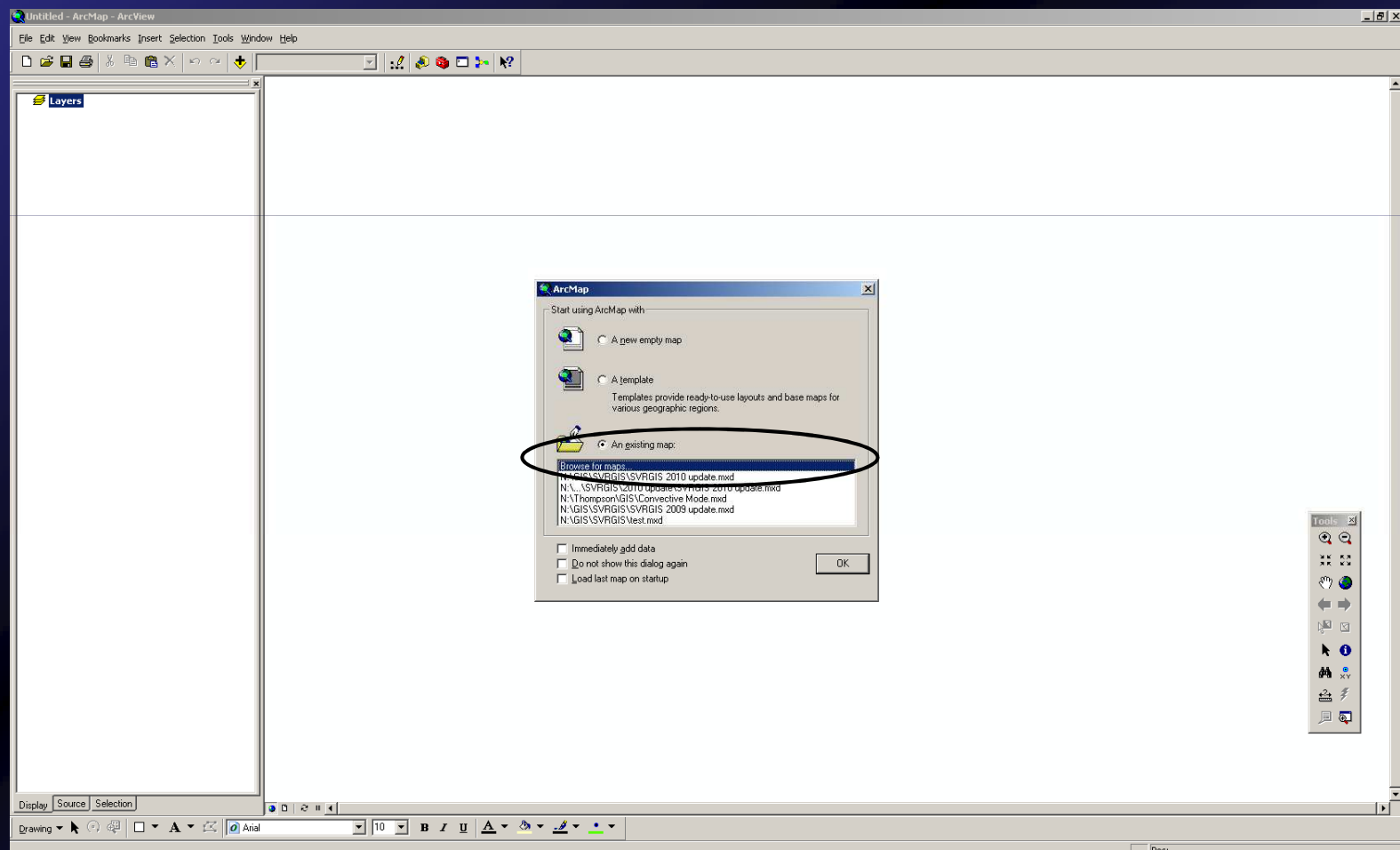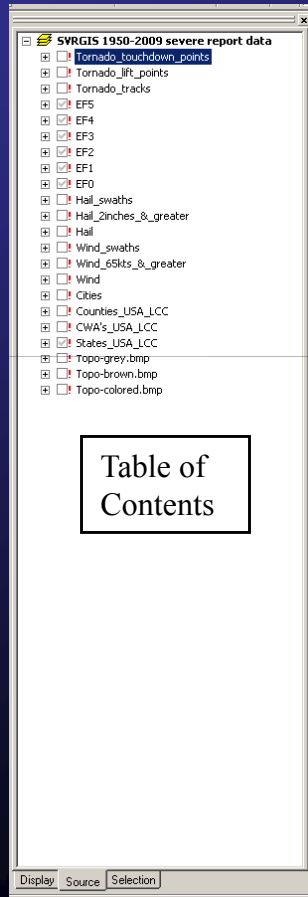
Requirements

Download files

- **ArcGIS 9.3* ArcMap software viewing program.**
  - **May use older versions of ArcGIS to examine data but specific methods of loading the SVRGIS database may differ slightly.*

- **All base files are linked and available for download at** http://www.spc.noaa.gov/gis/svrgis.
- **Download each zipped file and unzip it to a directory location of your choice (e.g., C:\Program Files\SVRGIS).**
- **Please note that the Cities.zip, topo-grey.zip, topo-brown.zip, and the topo-color.zip files are large (~25-50mb) and these will take time to download.**
- **When downloading has finished, please unzip each file to a directory location.**
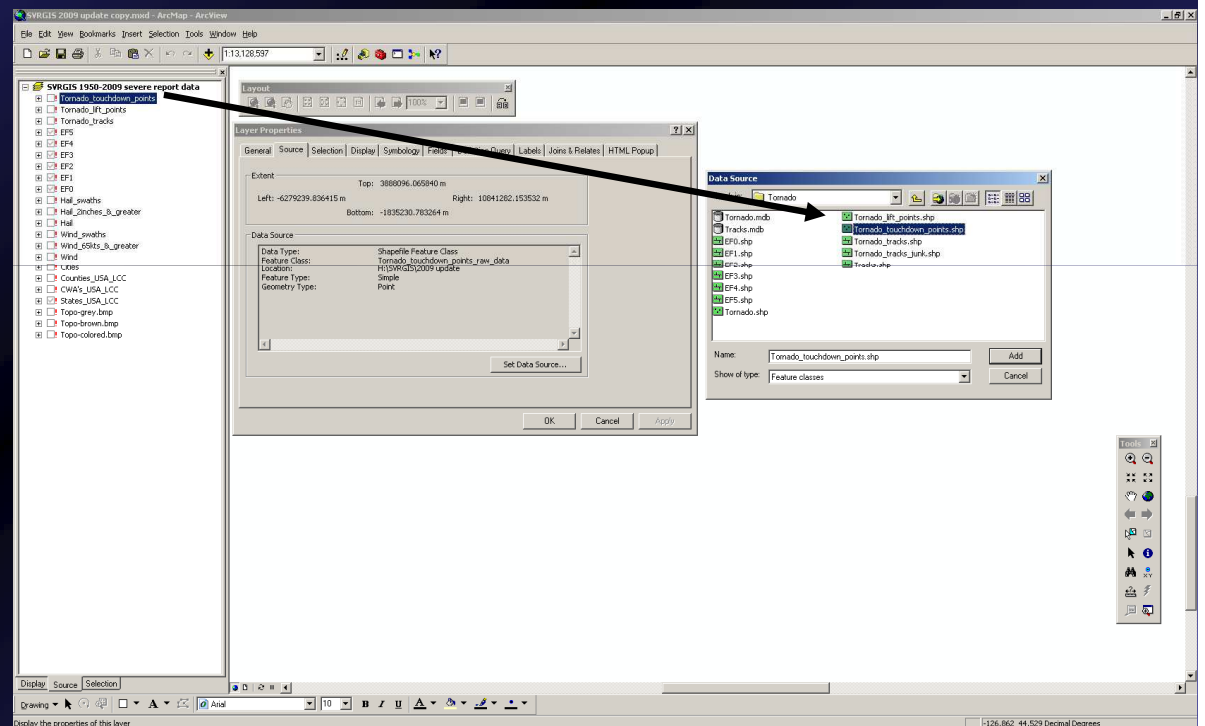
Opening files in ArcMap

- **Open ArcMap by clicking on Start→All Programs→ArcGIS→ArcMap.**
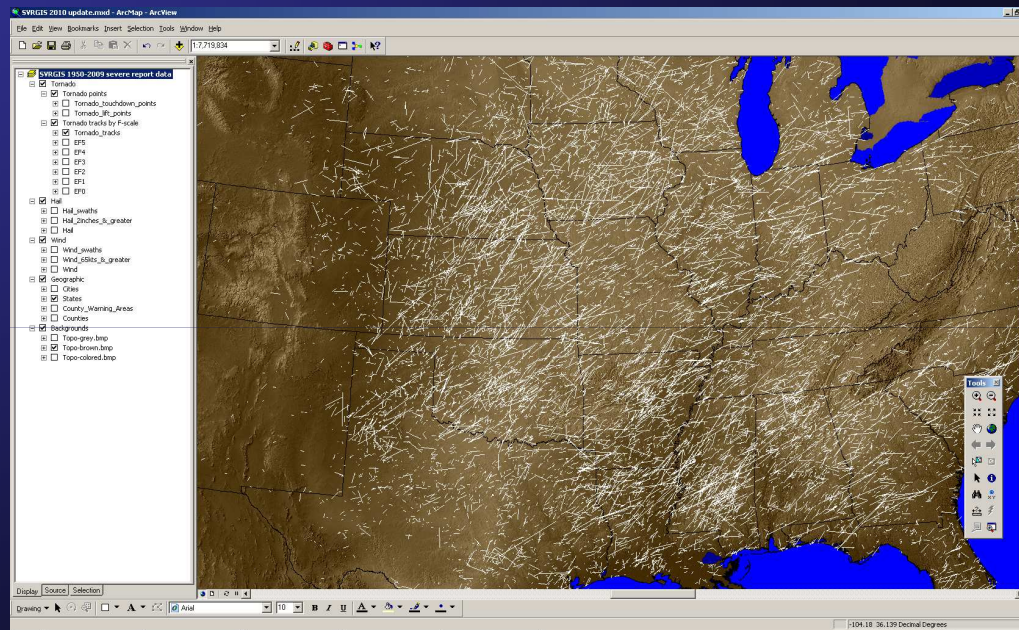- **Click on "An existing map" and then click "Browse for maps…" Click "OK."**

SVRGIS 1950-2009 severe report data
Tornado_touchdown_points
Tornado_lift_points
Tornado_tracks
EF5
EF4
EF3
EF2
EF1
EF0
Hail_swaths
Hail_2inches_&_greater
Hail
Wind_swaths
Wind_65kts_&_greater
Wind
Cities
Counties_USA_LCC
CWA's_USA_LCC
States_USA_LCC
Topo-grey.bmp
Topo-brown.bmp
Topo-colored.bmp

Table of Contents

Display | Source | Selection

- **Unzip all files**
- **Navigate to the directory where you copied the files and then open the 'SVRGIS 2010 update.mxd' file. If files are not copied in the same directory or using an older version of ArcMap, then the data will not display and red exclamation points will be visible next to each data layer in the Table of Contents.**

- **Right-click on one of the shapefiles**
- **Click Properties**
- **Source tab**
- **Click Set Data Source**
- **Navigate to file and click 'OK'.**

- If ArcMap asks if you would like to build pyramids…answer "yes" as it will take a minute or two to build but it will make navigation faster later.
- When the file has opened, it should look like this:
- If a blank screen shows up, use the 'Refresh' button to redraw the page.
- Uncheck every layer except the following layers:
  - Tornado
    - *Tornado points*
  - Tornado tracks by F-scale
    - *Tornado_tracks*
  - Hail
  - Wind
  - Geographic
    - *States*
  - Backgrounds
    - *Topo-brown.bmp*

Querying Data

- **Overview**
  - **There will be 3 data query examples presented; the 1st and 2nd examples are based on attribute queries of violent tornadoes and Oklahoma respectively.**
  - **The 3rd example is a spatial query (violent tornadoes ←→ Oklahoma).**
  - **Querying data involves data selection based on a property attribute (e.g., city name, F-scale rating, period of several years) or spatial attribute (e.g., state, county, county warning area)**

Example 1
Attribute Query (violent tornado tracks)

- **Turn on the 'Tornado_tracks' layer by clicking its box.**
- **Right-click and click 'Open Attribute Table' as shown.**

- **With the attribute table opened, you are able to see the field names or data properties in a tabular format.**

- **Click 'Options' (see above) on the attribute table and click 'Select by Attributes'**
- **The 'Select by Attributes' window opens, 'Create a new selection' (default setting)**
- **The syntax you will be creating is based on Boolean logic: scroll down and double left click "F_SCALE"**
- **Click the '>=' *greater than or equal to* symbol**
- **Click 'Get Unique Values' button and a listing of choices will show (in this example: F-9 through F5)**
- **Double click "F4"**
- **The Boolean logic statement should read "F_SCALE" >= 'F4'**
- **Click 'Apply'**

- **The result are blue highlighted F4 and F5 tornado tracks in the ArcMap display**
- **Click the 'Selected' button on the 'Attribute Table' and you will see the tabular form of the selected features (650 out of 27,608 selected), click 'All' to see the selected and non-selected records again.**
- **Close the Attribute Table window**

- **Right-click on the 'Tornado_tracks' layer, click 'Selection', then click 'Create Layer from Selected Features'**
- **A new layer named 'Tornado_tracks selection' is created. To see the newly created layer, please do the following steps.**
- **At the top of ArcMap in the Menubar (see below), click 'Selection', 'Clear Selected Features'**
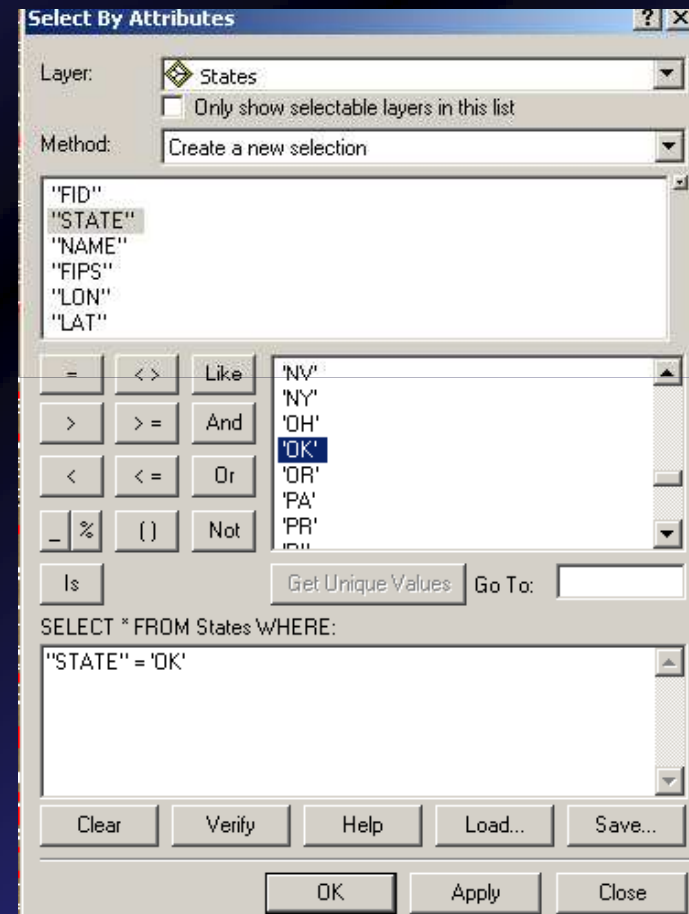
- **Left-click on the 'Tornado_tracks selection' layer and then left-click again slowly**

- **Rename the layer and type 'Violent tornadoes' and then hit 'Enter' on the keyboard**

- **Left-click on the 'Violent tornadoes' symbol (small colored line) and a symbol selection menu opens**

- **Change the 'Color:' to Mars Red and the 'Width:' to 2, click OK**

Example 2
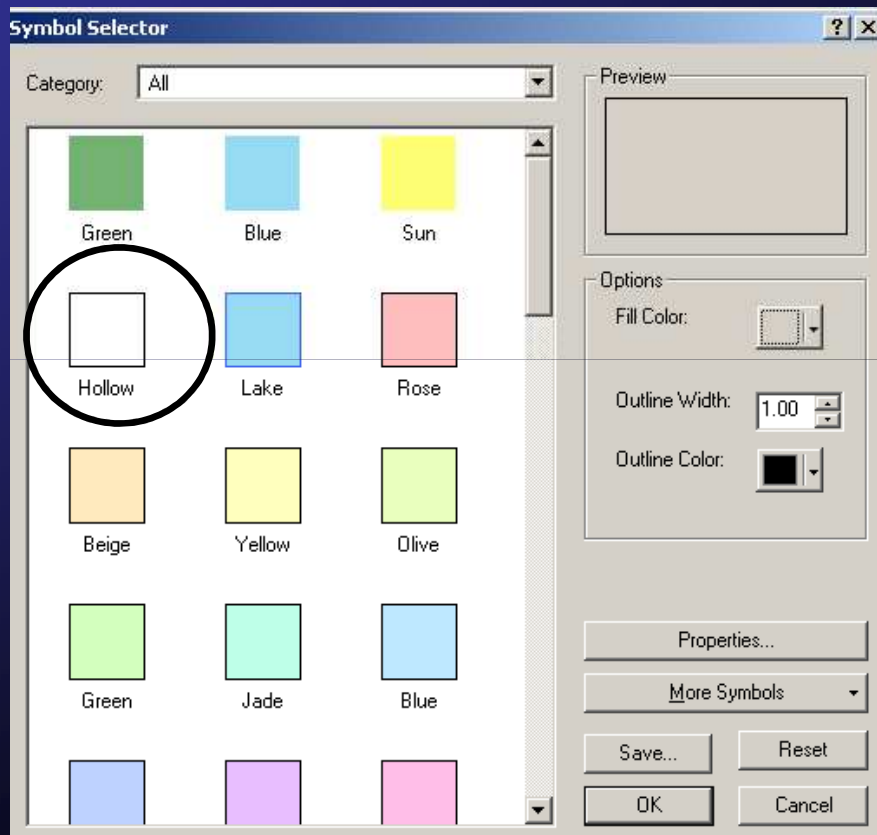## Attribute Query (Oklahoma)

- **Menu bar, click Selection, Select by Attributes…**
- **Select by Attributes table opens, select 'States' (pull down), Create a new selection (pull down), click =, click "Get Unique Values", double click 'OK'.**
  - **Boolean syntax should read, "STATE" = 'OK'**
- **Right-click the 'States' layer and click 'Selection', 'Create Layer From Selected Features'**

- **Next, go to the 'Menubar' and click 'Selection', then click 'Clear Selected Features' and the map should look like this…with the new layer named 'States_selection' the top most layer**

- **Rename the 'States_selection' layer by clicking the name once, then once more and type 'Oklahoma', then hit 'enter' on the keyboard**

- **Change the 'Oklahoma' layer by double clicking the symbol beneath Oklahoma, the 'Symbol Selector' window will open, select 'Hollow' (1st column, 2nd row) and increase the width to '1'**

Example 3

Spatial Query (Oklahoma violent tornado tracks)

- At the 'Menubar', Click 'Selection', then click 'Select By Location…' and the 'Select by Location' window opens

- In the window, I want to: 'select features from' (pull-down default)

- Turn On (check) only 'Violent tornadoes' layer

- that: 'intersect' (select this from the pull-down)

- the features in this layer: 'Indiana' (select this from the pull-down)

- Click the 'Apply' button and close the 'Select by Location' window

- Right-click 'Violent tornadoes' layer, click 'Selection', then click 'Create Layer From Selected Features'

- **Rename 'Violent tornadoes selection' layer by clicking on the layer's name then type 'Oklahoma violent tornado tracks'**
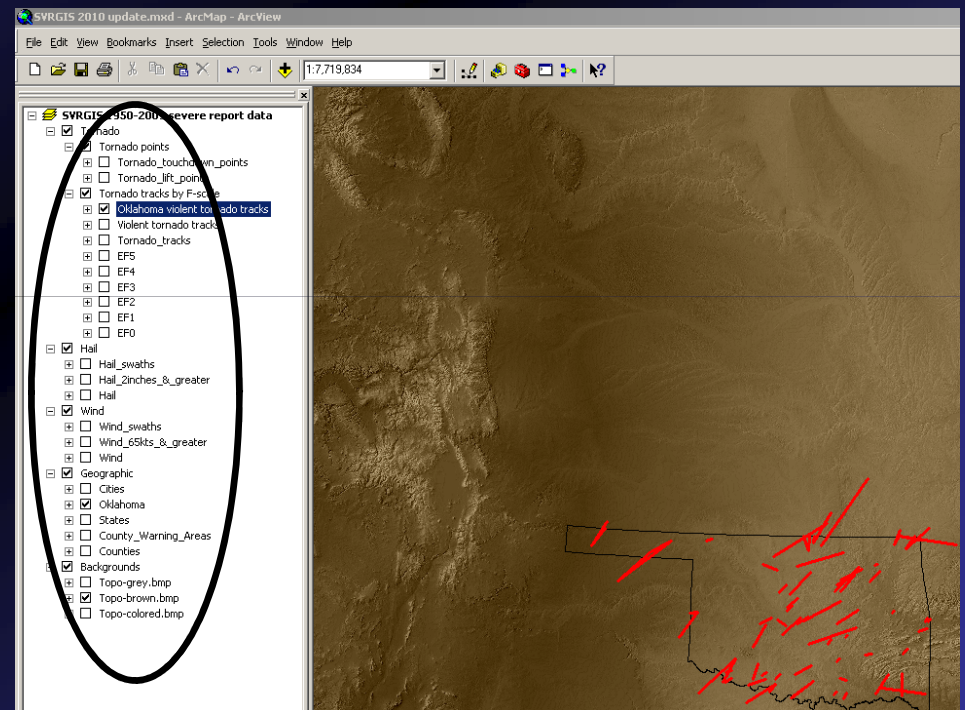- **Go to the 'Menubar' and click 'Selection', then click 'Clear Selected Features'**
- **Click on the 'Oklahoma violent tornado tracks' symbol and change the color to 'Mars Red' and width '2', then click 'OK'.**
- **Turn off the 'Violent tornadoes' layer and the 'Tornado_tracks' layers by 'unchecking' the layer to hide them.**
  - **The violent tornado tracks that have hit Oklahoma since 1950 will become apparent**
- **Click the '–' and change it to a '+' to hide the symbols to the 'Oklahoma violent tornado tracks' layer, 'Violent tornado tracks' layer, and 'Oklahoma' layer (see inset)**
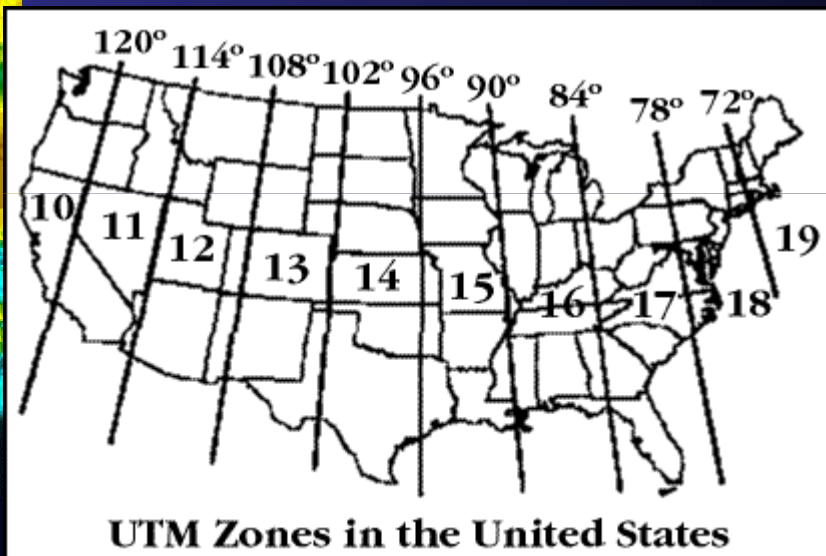
Arranging Layered Data

- **In the Table of Contents (listing of layers), left-click and drag the 'Oklahoma violent tornado tracks' layer under the 'Tracks by F-scale' layer**

- **Click the '−' and change it to a '+' to hide the 'Oklahoma violent tornado tracks' symbol (see inset)**

- **Left-click and drag the 'Violent tornado tracks' layer under the 'Oklahoma violent tornado tracks' layer**

- **Click the '−' and change it to a '+' to hide the 'Violent tornadoes' symbol**

- **Left-click and drag the 'Oklahoma' layer under the 'Geographic' → 'Cities' layer**

- **Uncheck 'States' layer and click the '−' and change it to a '+' to hide the symbol**
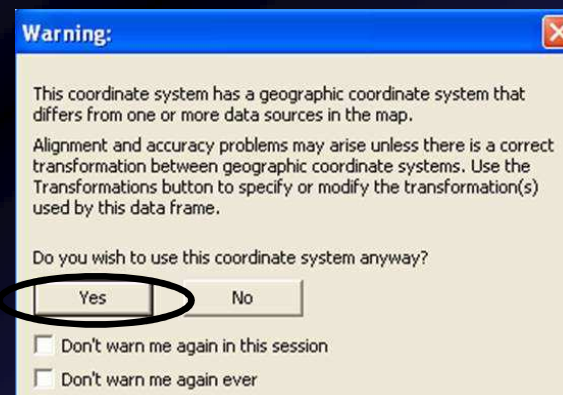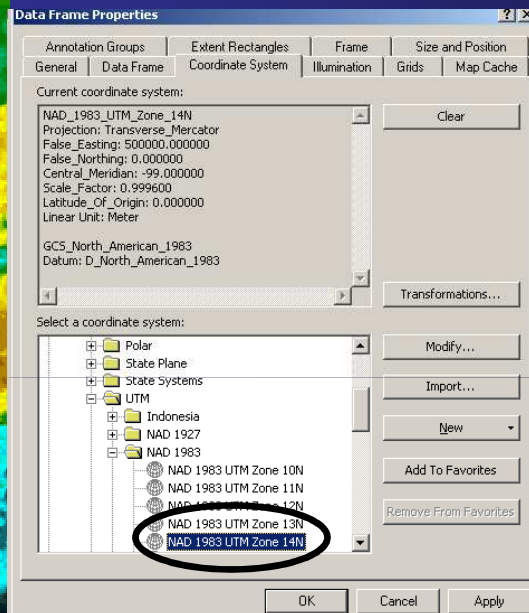
Regionalizing your projection
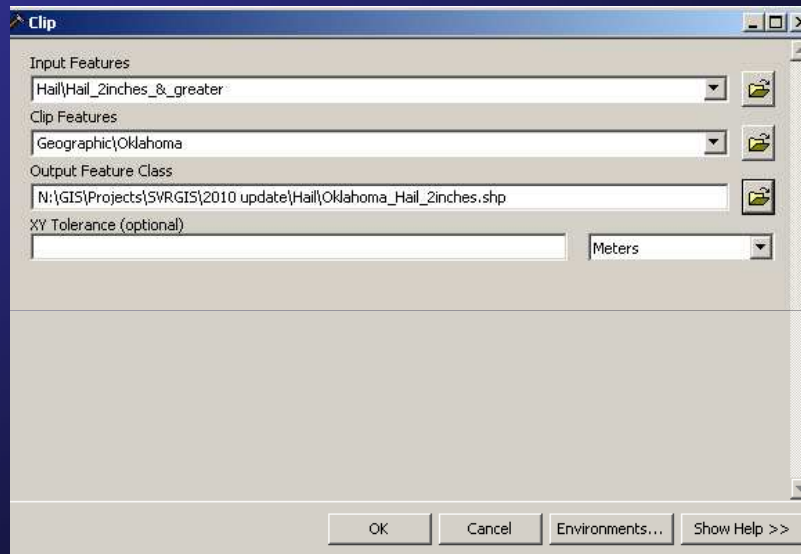## (optional)

UTM Zones in the United States

- **Correctly projected data is necessary. The best national projection based on shape is the USA Contiguous Lambert Conformal Conic projection (default). If you want the database projected for a localized region (e.g., state or CWA), use Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM).**

- **The image shows the UTM Zones in the USA. Choose the zone that your area is mostly within (for Oklahoma, Zone 14N).**

- **These projection methods of displaying data are <u>recommended</u> if you are tailoring the database to a localized region.**
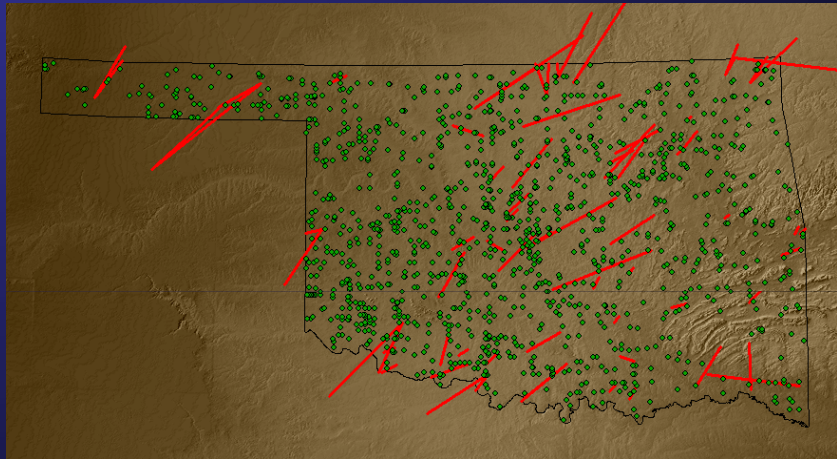
- **Right click on the 'SVRGIS 2009 update' button at the top of the Table of Contents and click the 'Properties' tab. When the Properties dialog box opens, under the Coordinate System tab click Predefined→Projected Coordinate Systems→Utm→NAD 1983→YourZone. Click "OK." If a warning pops up, click "Yes." You are now re-projected.**

Clip tool

- **Clip tool – extracts input features that overlay the clip features**
- **Click the ArcToolbox icon**
- **Navigate to ArcToolbox→Analysis Tools→Extract→Clip (2 clicks)**
- **In the 'Clip' window…**
  - *Input Features*
    - *Hail_2inches_&_greater*
  - *Clip Features*
    - *Oklahoma*
  - *Output Feature Class*
    - *Oklahoma_Hail_2inches.shp*
      - *Remember NO spaces in filename!*

- **A new 'Clip' window opens and displays the scripting process (not shown)**
- **The script finishes and the 2inches and greater hail reports are arbitrarily displayed as points**
  - **'Check' the layer to see the data points**
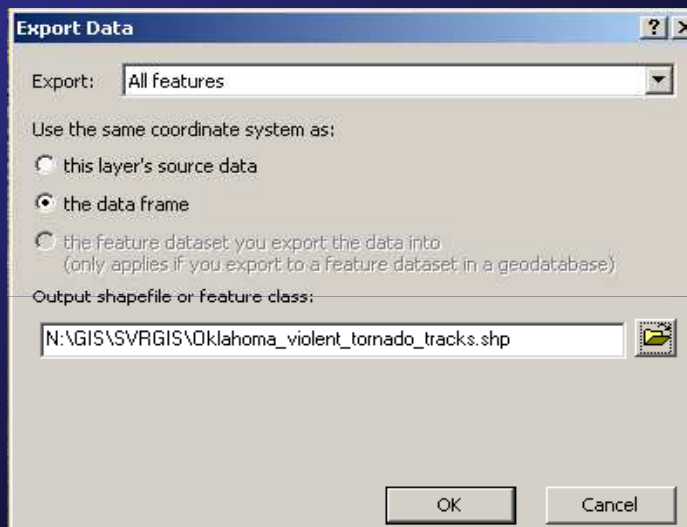- **Clipping is yet another way to build a ready-to-use database**

Miscellaneous

- **These tools are in the Tools Toolbar and you can make them visible or hide them by clicking the check found by going to the 'Menubar', 'View', 'Toolbars', 'Tools' (by default, these will already be displayed).**
    - **Zoom-in**
    - **Zoom-out**
    - **Pan**
    - **Select features**
    - **Select elements**
    - **Identify**
    - **Measure**

Creating shapefiles (.shp)
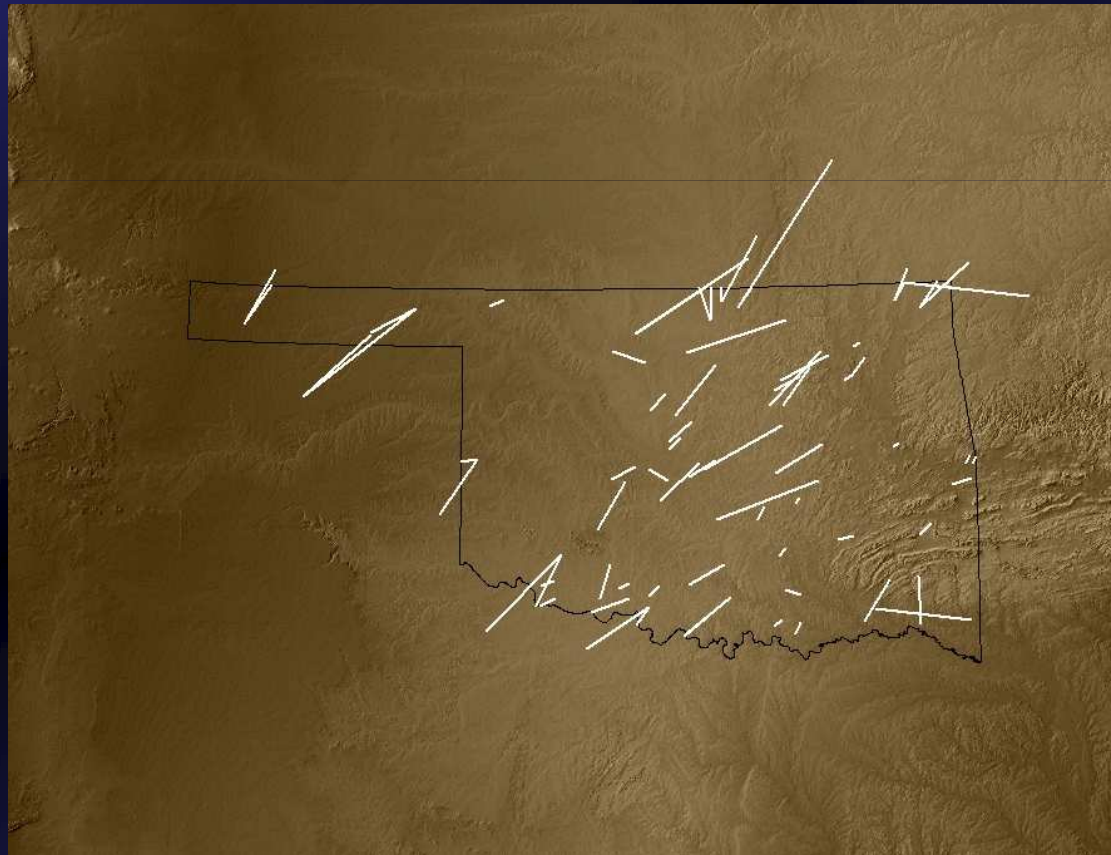## Oklahoma_violent_tornado_tracks.shp

- **Right-click on a layer, 'Data', 'Export Data…'**
- **Export: 'All features' (drop-down list default)**
- **Use the same coordinate system as: The 'Export Data' window opens, if you would like to make the .shp according to the current projection, click 'the data frame'**
- **Specify the directory location and .shp name (do <u>NOT</u> leave spaces in the filename, spaces in the directory name are okay) and click 'OK'.**
- **In the window prompt, add the new .shp to the map if you desire.**

Creating images

- **At the 'Menubar', click 'File', then 'Export Map' and save with a name and file type (i.e. Oklahoma violent tornado tracks.jpg)**
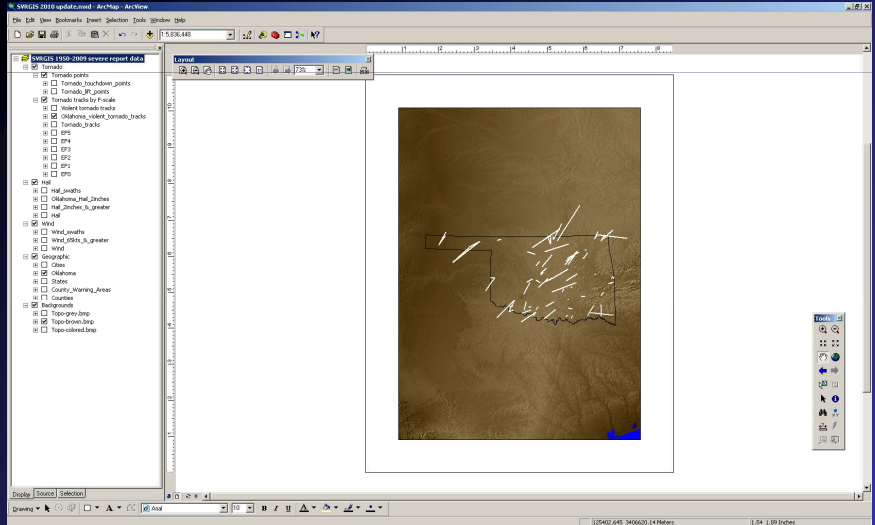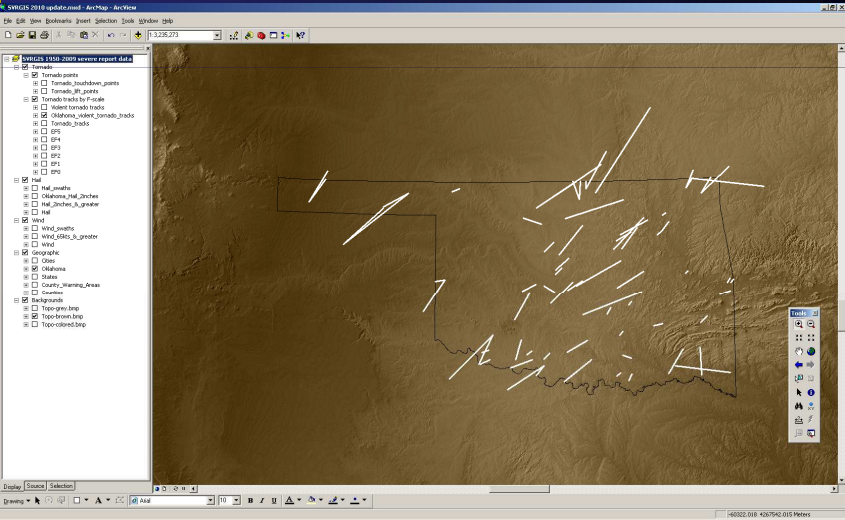
Creating maps

- **Navigate in the Menubar to View→Layout View**

Data View   **Layout View**

- **In Layout View, use the 'Zoom-in' tool to navigate to Oklahoma**
- **Use the 'Select elements' tool to re-size the SVRGIS 2009 update data frame window**
- **Insert→Title**
  - **Double click text box and name accordingly (e.g., Oklahoma violent tornado track segments, 1950-2009)**
- **With the Title selected, Insert→Neatline**
  - **A 'Neatline' window opens, change the background color as desired and click 'OK's**